



SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH COLLEGE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Executive Committee Member,
SBSCAA

Dear Members,

It's a new year, and we're celebrating the newsletter's first anniversary!

We'd like to start the year with a bang, and so we're adding a new feature to our newsletter. This month, we're introducing the 'Knowledge Page'. Find out what the Lokpal Act 2013 is all about in the inaugural article by Mr. Harinderjit Singh.

Catch up on the latest news and get acquainted with another alumnus. Plus, we're starting a new referral programme in order to increase membership.

So grab a cup of your favourite cuppa, and enjoy this power packed issue!

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NEWS

Campus To Corporate Returns

The hugely successful Campus to Corporate Series has entered its third season with students demanding workshops on soft skills.

Dale Carnegie Trained & Certified and IBTA Certified Trainer, Ms. Perna Arman will be speaking during the workshop on 'CV Writing, Group Discussion & Interview Skills'.

Ms. Varshanjali Asthana, IBTA, Internationally Certified Master Trainer and Dale Carnegie Trained & Certified Trainer, will be speaking on 'Communication & Presentation Skills' in the second workshop in the series.

The programmes are being directed by Dr. Ajay Jain, in association with Engagement Mantras.

Referral Programme

In order to increase our membership, we are announcing a referral programme. We need your help to spread the word and encourage your peers to become members.

If you'd like to refer a peer, all you have to do is send us a scanned copy of the membership form with the subject line 'Membership Form / Referred by' followed by your name.

At the end of the first quarter, we'll feature the member with the most referrals!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Featured Alumni

Mr. Puneet Narula
Managing Director,
Tupperware India



Puneet completed his graduation in B.Com (Hons) from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College in 1993. He then pursued Chartered Accountancy, completing his articleship with Ernst & Young. Soon after, Puneet joined Glaxo SmithKline Consumer Healthcare (then SmithKline Beecham Consumer Healthcare) as a Management Trainee in 1997.

For almost ten years, he took on various roles including Team Leader - ERP Implementation, Regional Finance Manager - North, Head of Finance - (Nutritional Food services) and then Business Controller (Finance) - Nutritionals.

Puneet joined Tupperware India as CFO, where is now the Managing Director.

“ My memories of my college days involves lots of fun (we were a group of eight) and attending classes of Prof Sanyal, Prof Om Agarwal, Prof GK Kapoor, Prof Maras, Prof Balbir Singh...

These people left a lasting impression on me and I still have their learnings engraved in me. ”

KNOWLEDGE PAGE

Lokpal Act 2013

The much talked-about Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2013, got President Pranab Mukherjee's assent on Wednesday, 1st January 2014 and become Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013. The Act aims to establish a robust anti-corruption ombudsman independent of the government.

The primary objective is to expedite investigations against corrupt government officials in order to curb rampant corruption in the government machinery.

With the passage of Lokpal bill and increasing instances of corporates being associated in bribery cases, private sector should be prepared with a robust mechanism to mitigate bribery and corruption risks, which could also lead to a great opportunity for us.

Independence

- » The Chairperson and members of the Lokpal shall be appointed by the President on recommendations from Prime Minister, speaker of house of people, leader of opposition and chief justice of India or judge of Supreme Court.
- » The Lokpal cannot have members from Parliament, the Legislatures of any state or union territory, panchayat or municipality or have any connection with any political party.
- » The Lokpal on receipt of a complaint may order preliminary inquiry by its Inquiry wing or any agency.

- » The Lokpal will have superintendent powers to give directions to the Delhi Special Police Establishment or the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

Jurisdiction

- » Public servants such as the Prime Minister, other ministers, members of Parliament, groups A, B, C, D officers as defined under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and officials of the central government.
- » Directors, managers, secretary or other officers of society, association of persons, trust, corporate, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability partnership wholly or partially financed by the government and the annual income of which exceeds such amount as the central government may specify, as well as directors, managers, secretary or other officers of society, association of persons, trust in receipt of donations from the public or from any foreign source in excess of 10 lakh INR in a year.
- » Persons, other than the above involved in the act of abetting, bribe-giving or taking or conspiracy relating to any allegation of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Impact

- » The Lokpal will be independent of the government.
- » The Lokpal is expected to independently inquire into complaints

against public servants on receipt of a complaint. This is against the general practice of complaints/matters being referred to investigative agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the courts or Cabinet.

- » Due to its independence and superintendence, ability to influence or interfere in investigations is expected to be minimised.
- » The ambit of people under the purview of the Bill has significantly expanded significantly to include ministers, public sector servants and private sector.
- » Directors of companies, who may not be directly involved in the payment of bribes or any other corrupt behaviour may also be potentially at risk.
- » Although the Bill aims to curb corruption in the bureaucracy, the private sector with government touch points will have significant impact.
- » While the jurisdiction of Lokpal extends beyond the public sector, there is a lack of clarity as to which entities would be considered being partly or wholly financed by the government and thereby included in the ambit of the Lokpal.

Key Features

The Bill provides for the establishment of the Lokpal at the centre and the Lokyuktas at the state level for investigating into complaints of corruption. Some of the key features of the Bill include the following:

(The Lokpal and Lokyuktas Bill, 2011 as passed by Lok Sabha on 27 December 2011, The Lokpal and Lokyuktas Bill, 2011 as reported by the Select Committee and various financial dailies)

Composition of members

- » In total, the Lokpal and the Lokyukta will consist of eight members of whom 50% shall be judicial members.
- » The chairperson will either be a chief justice of India or is the current or past judge of the Supreme Court or any other eminent person of impeccable integrity and outstanding ability having special knowledge and expertise of not less than 25 years in matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance, banking, law and management.
- » The other judicial members can be current or past judges of the Supreme Court or Chief Justices of the High Courts.

Appointment

- » The chairperson and members of the Lokpal will be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, Speaker of the House of the People, the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People, the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him or her and one eminent jurist by the President.
- » The chairperson and members can hold office for a term of five years.

Jurisdiction

- » Under the Prevention of Corruption

Act, 1988, a Lokpal can set off an inquiry into offences committed by the Prime Minister (with certain caveats), ministers of the state and central governments, current and former members of Parliament and group A, B, C and D officers, employees of company, society, trust financed partially or wholly by the government and employees of association of persons, trust, society that receive foreign funding. However, the Bill excludes bodies creating endowments for or performing religious or charitable functions.

Initiate prosecution

- » The Lokpal has the power to grant sanction to the Prosecution Wing for initiating prosecution. The Prosecution Wing or investigating agency can then file a charge-sheet or direct the closure of report before the Special Court.

Timebound investigations

- » The enquiry, investigation and results are timebound. The Enquiry Wing or any other agency shall conduct a preliminary enquiry and submit a report to the Lokpal within 60 days. Every preliminary enquiry shall be completed within a period of 90 days. If the Lokpal decides to further investigate into the complaint, it shall direct any agency to carry out the investigation and submit an investigation report within six months from the date of its order.

Penalty for false complaints

- » Frivolous and false complaints will lead to criminal liability of imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of up to 1 lakh INR. Additionally, the public

servant against whom such a false complaint is filed will be liable for compensation. For public servants, imprisonment can be of up to seven years and in case of criminal misconduct and habitually abetting corruption, a jail term up to 10 years.

Transfer of officer

- » Any officer of the Delhi Special Police Establishment investigating a case referred to it by the Lokpal, shall not be transferred without the approval of the Lokpal.

Separate Director (Prosecution)

- » In order to maintain the independence of the CBI, a separate Director (Prosecution) will be appointed on the recommendations of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, who reports to the agency's director. The CBI Director and Director (Prosecution) will have a fixed term of two years.

(This article, contributed by Mr. Harinderjit Singh, is intended for information only and should not be construed as an attempt to offer or render a legal opinion.)

If you wish to contribute towards the newsletter, we'd love to hear from you. Send us your articles, opinions, illustrations - anything that we could feature here, and we'll be glad to include it.

Simply email us with the subject line 'Newsletter'.

We look forward to your response.